

CONCERNING THE RECENT MANOEUVRES OF THE JAPANESE TROOPS
NEAR LUKOUCHIAO, AND THAT THEY DID NOT ONLY FIRED
UPON BY THE CHINESE TROOPS, THE FOREIGN OFFICE
SPOKESMAN MADE THE FOLLOWING EXPLANATION
ON FRIDAY NIGHT, JULY 9, 1937.

Under the provisions of Article IX of the joint Note of the Allied Powers concerning the Boxer Rebellion, and paragraph IV of the Note exchanged between Japan and China concerning the Restoration of Tientsin, the Japanese troops garrisoned in North China have been accustomed to carrying on manoeuvres without being subjected to any restriction as to locality of time. It is provided that with the exception of practice with loaded bullets, no notice need be given for individual cases of manoeuvres. However, as a matter of fact, in order to remove the anxiety of the local inhabitants, notice has been gratuitously served in advance. In the manoeuvre in question, though it was not a practice with loaded guns, notice had been served as usual.

It may be added that other Powers maintaining garrisons in China may, and are, in fact, used to holding similar manoeuvres frequently.

1. The neighbourhood of Lungwungmiao, where troops were illegally fired upon, lies to the northside of Lukouchiao, and having but few houses, is best suited for military manoeuvres. The autumn manoeuvre of last year and many subsequent manoeuvres, large and small, have been held there, so that the place has come to be regarded as if it were a regular practice field for our troops. Moreover, the river bank of the Yungting above and below the Lukouchiao Bridge has been frequently

Dof. Dec. 1096

used as the grounds for target practice with the high land to the west as a mark.

2. Our troops, with the impending Annual Inspection in view, had been practising continuously day and night in the locality in question.

3. On Wednesday, shortly after 11 o'clock when our troops were fired upon, they had no real bullets with them, save a supply amounting to one cartridge per soldier which was kept by the commanding officer for emergency. There was only one case of ballcartridges for light machine-guns. Of course, the supply was insufficient for returning the fire, and the commander, to meet the situation, immediately sent for reinforcements to the garrison at Fengtai.

These hastened to the scene with real bullets and infantry guns to oppose the Chinese. It was not until 5 o'clock on Thursday morning that our troops used solid shots in exchanging fires with the Chinese.

4. It is claimed by the Chinese that our soldiers had entered inside the village wall of Lukouchiao. Our troops are always strictly warned against the occurrence of untoward incidents. Moreover, in this particular village our soldiers have been accustomed not to force their way in order to avoid trouble, because the Chinese sentinel there are in the habit of stopping without reason Japanese soldiers even if they wanted to pass the gate. Finally, in order to approach the gate of the village it is necessary to cross twice a railway track running on an embankment. It would be impossible that a handful of our soldiers should steal inside the gate, and certainly it is absurd that they should court danger purposely by trying to enter the village at night.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of 3 pages and entitled "Concerning the Recent Maneuvers of the Japanese Troops near Lukouchiau, Where they were wantonly fired upon by the Chinese Troops, the Foreign Office Spokesman made the following explanation on Friday night, July 9, 1937." is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 8th day of April 1947.

/s/ K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

Witness : /s/ K. Urabe

最近支那兵より不法射撃を受けたる蘆溝橋附近に於ける日本軍隊の演習に關し、外務省ハボークスマンは一九三七年七月九日金曜日夜左の如き説明を行つた。

奉天の亂に關する聯合國共同覺書第十條並に天津邊附に關する日支交換秘書第四項の規定により、北支那屯の日本軍隊は場所、時間について何等制約を受けることなく演習を行ふのが從來の習慣であつた。訓練、習を陰いては個々の演習について布告をなすを要しないと規定され(あるが)、しかし實際問題として地方住民の懸念を察くため、かねて諭ある布告が發せられる事になつてゐた。問題の演習に於ても、裝備演習ではなかつたが例の如く布告が發せられた。

ちなみに、支那に守備喰を肆虐せしめしゐる他の諸國も又、類々同様の演習を行ふことが出來又事実之を行つし來たのである。

一、該が不法射撃を受けた龍王廟附近は蘆溝橋の北側に當り、人家も疎らで、冒険の演習には最適の地である。昨年の秋季演習及び其後の大

小多くの演習は其處で行はれ、そのため其地は恰も我が軍の正規の演習場の如くに具備されるに至つた。更に又、臺灣橋より上流下流の永定河の河畔は、西方の高地を目標に日々射的演習場として利用されてゐたのである。

二、我軍は目前に迫つた年度検閲にそなへし、連日連夜の演習を同地點に於て行つてゐた。

三、我が軍が射撃を受けた水曜日十一時過ぎ頃、我軍は指揮官が萬一のため携行してゐた、各兵につき空包一箇宛の外は、全く實彈を所持してゐなかつた。該機銃統の空包は唯の一箱しかなかつた。之だけでは勿論頗るするにも足らず、指揮官は真直に鳳台にある守備隊に増援を求めたのである。

守備隊は支那軍を駆つたため實彈及歩兵砲を携へて現地に急行した。木曜日の五時に至つて始めて我が軍は支那軍との交戦に於て守備隊を使用したのである。

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支那側に於ては、我軍の兵隊が該満洲の部落内に入つたと主張してゐる
が、我軍には常に面倒な事件の起らぬやうに戒められて居り、更に又
その特別の部落に於ては、支那軍の歩兵が日本兵と見れば、たゞひ門を
通りたいといつても理由なく之を止めし入れないのが常であるため、紛
争を避けるため、決して無理に通りぬやう習慣づけられてゐたのである
最後に部落の城門に近づくためには堤防に沿つて走る鉄道線路を二度横
断するを要する。少數の我兵が城門内へ忍び入るが如きは不可能であり
彼等が殊更に夜半部落に入らうとして自ら危険を招くといふ如きは考へ
られない事である。